



International Geneva

## Directory of Geneva Global Health Actors

### GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS | GEO

<https://www.earthobservations.org/index.php>

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### BACKGROUND AND MISSION

The Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary partnership of governments and international organisations established in 2005, and coordinates efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). GEO's members include 104 governments and the European Commission. In addition, 118 intergovernmental, international and regional organisations with a mandate in earth observation or related issues have been recognised as participating organisations.

### AREAS OF INTEREST

- disaster resilience, prediction and warning
- biodiversity and ecosystem sustainability
- sustainable urban development
- water, energy and mineral resource management
- food security and sustainable agriculture
- public health surveillance, mainly water and vector borne diseases
- training and capacity building in the relevant areas of interest

### HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

The main health activity of GEO is providing Earth observations and data to the use of public health surveillance in order to predict, prevent and control vector and water borne diseases, such as cholera and malaria, and environmentally linked diseases and health complications, such as the health impact of extreme heat. GEO also monitors pollutants and air quality for better understanding of the health impacts of these to the wider public. Additionally, other GEO focus areas such as sustainable agriculture for enhanced nutrition and water resource management are directly linked to population health.

## **GOVERNANCE AND STAFF**

GEO Plenary meets at least once annually and comprises designated representatives of each member country and organisation. The executive committee includes 16 member states nominated by 5 regional caucuses. The GEO Secretariat consists of a Management Team and a Scientific & Technical Team with a total staff number of 16. The Secretariat Director is Barbara J. Ryan.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

See: <http://www.earthobservations.org/documents.php?smid=200>

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